



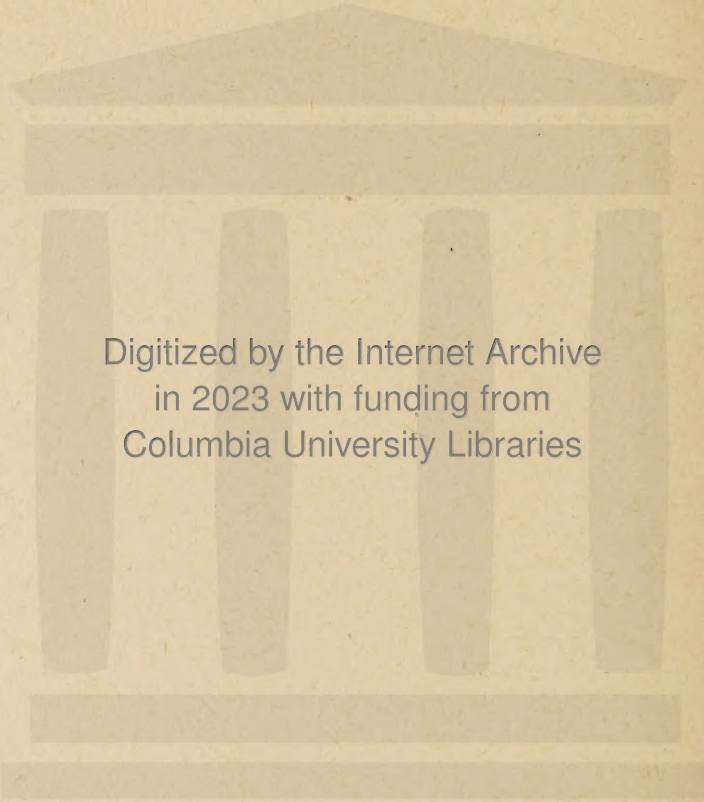
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Christian Stewardship *in the* *Crusade for Christ*

FOR THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

GERALD KENNEDY

GENERAL BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES
THE METHODIST CHURCH
740 RUSH STREET, CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS



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GENERAL BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES
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GEORGE L. MORELOCK, *Executive Secretary*
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**MANUAL FOR THE COMMITTEE ON
CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP**

By

Gerald Kennedy

Introduction

Some years ago as a college student, I had a minister whom I admired greatly. It was under his influence that I went into the ministry and received my local preachers' license. He said one time in exasperation: "The Church Committees are the bunk." Since that time, I have learned by experience what he meant. People have a way of accepting appointments to important committees in the Church, and then assume that the appointment meant only a name to be read off at the Quarterly Conference.

On the other hand, I have heard laymen say, "Our minister is a good fellow, but he wants to run the whole program." When I look about and see how active men and women are in secular organizations and how often they do nothing for the Church, I come to the conclusion that the fault is not all theirs if the committees are often inactive. There have been times in my own ministry when I have been astounded by the ability and efficiency of my members who were given a particular job to do in a particular time.

Therefore, I come to the conclusion that the minister who says the committees are useless, is wrong. The layman who says that the minister wants to run the whole program by himself, is wrong. The difficulty lies in a misunderstanding on both sides and a lack of willingness to explore more adequately, the minister-committee relationship. This much is certain—we have a particular job to do in a particular length of time and the minister cannot do it without his laymen, and the laymen will need the leadership of the minister.

There was a minister who said that he had fifty members and when asked if they were all active, he replied, "Yes, twenty-five for me and twenty-five against me." Preachers, being merely human, often cause antagonism to rise against them on the part of certain laymen. If that is the case with you, try now to rise above it for the sake of the job that is bigger than personalities. It would be a great tragedy if the Stewardship emphasis in the Crusade for Christ should be hesitant, because resentment keeps you from doing your full share. It is a time when every Methodist Church must heal any inner bickerings and move like a mighty army against the paganism of this world. The "twenty-five against" must become a part of the "fifty for." We have undertaken a job so big that only enthusiastic support and the complete devotion of every Methodist layman can do it.

Sergeant James L. S. Dunlop, a member of the Royal Canadian Airforce, crashed to his death on October 11, 1941. While in England he had written a letter which was to be mailed to his parents in Niagara Falls, New York, in case he failed to return from one of his flights. This is what he said: "If there is any message which the coming generation should have from mine, let it be a message from us who have fought and died to make future generations of human beings possible. Let the message be this: 'We have cleared the site and laid the foundations. You build'." Such great words as these cannot be allowed to waste themselves in useless emotion and sentimental feeling. But for the Stewardship Committee of your church of which you are a member, the challenge is now presented to get along with your preparation to build in 1947.

I

THE TIME IS NOW

"... choose you this day whom ye will serve." JOSHUA 24:15.

When Joshua was ready to depart from this life, he called the people together and set before them his demand for a decision. It was a great moment and the people rose to meet it with their affirmation: "Far be it from us that we should forsake Jehovah to serve other gods . . . but we will serve Jehovah." (JOSHUA 24:16, 21) There are those times when the decision is before us because the crisis is upon us. Our lives do not flow gently and smoothly. The world is not a path that leads gently upward without variation. There are the moments when we too hear the word: "Choose you this day."

In such a time do we find ourselves now. You have probably become weary with hearing reference to the atomic bomb and the atomic age. But weary or not, we must not allow ourselves to forget that humanity stands at the crossroads of moral decision. No generation ever faced the momentous decisions we must face, and for good or ill, the coming generations wait to see what we shall do. The seriousness of this moment cannot be overemphasized and the position in which the Church finds itself is at once frightening and inspiring.

Of one thing we can be sure, namely, that it is no longer a matter of unimportance whether the Christian way of life is accepted or not. When the Methodist Church launched its Crusade for Christ, the atomic bomb had not been dropped. That means that each year of the Crusade takes on a more desperate importance than the year before. We who are to take the lead in the Stewardship emphasis in 1947, must feel that we are actors in the rising climax of the greatest drama our world has known. Abraham Lincoln spoke a word to his time that sounds as modern as tomorrow. He said, "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

This means that as Christians we must feel again that urgency which characterized the Christians of the First Century who stood under the sense of the end of things. It is indeed Christ or Chaos. The outline of what the Methodist Church proposes to actually do follows in these pages, but first let us understand the situation which makes every detail of that program of eternal importance.

Tomorrow Will Be Too Late

There is an old legend about a conference of evil spirits which was called to determine the best method of destroying men. One said, "I will go and tell them that the Bible is only a fable and not the word of God." Another said, "I will persuade them that Christ was only human and cannot be the Savior of the world." Still another said, "Let me go and I will tell them that there is no God, no Savior, no heaven, and no hell." But none of these messages seemed to be quite the right one, and so one spirit, wiser than the rest, said, "Let me go and I will tell men that **there is a God**, there is a Savior, there is a heaven, and a hell too. But I will tell them there is no hurry; tomorrow will do, tomorrow will be even as today!" And he was the one they sent.

This has been our temptation and the hindrance of our work. **We have assumed** that we had centuries and that God could not expect too much of us. Thus the conquest of nature far outran our conquest of sin. Now the power is here but not the

control. It has suddenly become apparent that the teachings of our religion are not the ideals of a far off possibility, but the minimum necessities if we are to survive. Christianity reveals the great crises of life but as it reveals the dangers in the situation, it reveals also the source of courage necessary to conquer the dangers.

You remember the feeling of exhilaration in Browning's poem, "*How They Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix*":

I sprang to the stirrup and Joris, and he,
I galloped, Dick galloped, we galloped all three;
"God Speed," cried the watch, as the gatebolts undrew;
"Speed!" echoed the wall to us galloping through.

God demands speed from us, and devotion, for the sands are running out and the time is now.

II ONE MASTER

"No man can serve two masters . . . Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." MAT. 6:24.

I saw a cartoon sometime ago which amused me but also made me sad. It was a drawing of a group of very wealthy people coming out of a beautiful, rich church. The minister stood in the doorway greeting people as they passed by. One woman said to another, "He does remarkably well. It is very difficult to preach to people like us without offending us."

How clever we are in adjusting the Gospel to our conveniences. Where it is too severe, we make it more tolerant. When it demands what would cause discomfort, we decide that Jesus never meant us to take that command literally. When the ethics of Christianity would cost us money if we adopted them, we quiet our conscience by saying that it is impossible to live without compromise anyway. We not only believe that we can serve two masters—we serve fifty.

After a while, we wonder why it is that our religion does not mean as much to us as we had been told it would. We listen to the saints tell of the joy and inner calm they know and of the unspeakable glory shed upon their lives, but we listen with vaguely comprehending minds, and we look with unseeing eyes upon their truth. I am troubled with the number of people who believe that the Christian life is just not being bad. How many people come to the minister and tell him they do this and they do that but their conscience does not bother them, and surely it cannot be called wicked. No, it is not wicked, but it is even worse. It is the dullness of a life only half committed to Him, and hence a life that is neither black nor white, but only a dull grey.

Toward a Definition

We need to come to terms with what it means to be Christians. How does one find victory and adequacy? We believe that the answer is to be found in one great word: *Stewardship*. To go all out for Christ, to accept his leadership in every activity, and to ask in every decision, What would He have me do? is to be a steward of Christ.

Read again Paragraph 223 of the 1944 Discipline. Here are set forth the sweep and depth of the term *Stewardship*.

"God is the owner of all things. Man is a steward." Too many of us reverse this and assume that we are the owners and we allow God to manage those things which are beyond us. What a difference in our way of living and our values, if this simple, yet profound idea takes hold of us: God is the owner, and I am an administrator of

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that which has been entrusted to me for my use. This means, of course, that all material things are gifts from God and they must be used for Him. But to use them for Him means to use them for others. We awaken to the truth that service to God is service to man . . . "Stewardship is the practical expression of one's experience of God."

It is a sad truth that the average Methodist gives so little money to his church, that one would assume it is one of the least important things in his life. Compared with luxuries and amusements, the Church comes off a bad third. There is no more crying shame in our Church than this robbery of God by men who talk long and loud about the Kingdom of God. It is this that makes so many church members extremely sensitive as to who learns how much they give to the Church.

And all of this is so unnecessary. Christians who accept the stewardship of life, learn that their giving is joy. Systematically they set aside a percentage to go directly into the church program, so that from the beginning, it belongs to the Church and not to themselves. But their whole financial resource belongs to God and so they take the responsibility of administering it in his name. The amazing thing is that people like that can afford to do so much more than the stingy worldling. John Wesley urged Methodists to earn all they could, save all they could, and then give all they could. There is hardly a better program to be followed than these three admonitions, guarded by Wesley's warning that earning, saving and giving must all be done in the spirit of Christ. If The Methodist Church would take its stewardship of money seriously in 1947, we could expand our program to the place that we might very well turn the world from chaos to Christ.

You who have read Dostoyevsky's great novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, will remember how Mitya who had committed crimes and had decided to die at dawn, found that he could not die until he had confessed that he was a thief. He had stolen some money entrusted to him by Katya. This troubled him more than anything else for it seemed to him to be the meanest thing of all. If only we can understand what Stewardship means, we shall know how horrible it is to steal from God, for it is this crime which we commit when we assume that we are the absolute owners of our money.

But money is only one part of Stewardship. We are called to surrender our abilities, our ambitions, and our plans to Him. The men who turned the world upside down in the First Century, were just plain men who were under the compulsion of a single purpose—to do the will of God revealed in Christ. This is not an unreasonable thing that God demands. It is the thing we really want and the fulfillment of our own personal destiny. Only our fears and selfishness keep us away from the treasure God has for us. The truly creative personalities are those that have accepted stewardship for a high purpose. Christians know that there is nothing higher than God's call to be citizens of His Kingdom.

We are split persons looking for unity. During the week we are business men or housewives. Part of the time we are members of clubs and participants in secular affairs. Sundays we are religious, or try to be. But all of this is wrong because we are persons who need a unity that will bring all of our activities into one plan. This is what the acceptance of Stewardship does. We are no longer miniature civil wars or mobs, but sons of God hearing one clear call always.

Goals

Some years ago, a hurricane struck the coast of England and destroyed a little church on the coast. The congregation was poor and decided they could not afford to replace it, so they planned to worship somewhere else. But one day a representative of the British Admiralty called on the minister and asked when he was going to rebuild the church. The minister told the man the situation. Then the man from the

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Admiralty Office said, "If you do not rebuild the church, we will. That spire is on all our charts and maps. It is a landmark by which the ships steer their course."

Goals are spires to steer by, and the General Board of Lay Activities has set up these goals for the Year of Stewardship:

1. To inculcate in the minds and hearts of the members of The Methodist Church a deep sense of their Stewardship of the Gospel, or their obligation to spread the Kingdom of God over the earth with the spirit and directive of the Great Commission.
2. To secure such a personal commitment to God as will result in a passion for Christian living, and such a dedication of self in points of time and personal abilities on the part of the members of the churches as will adequately and effectively man and direct the normal processes of their work for worship, fellowship, Christian education, evangelism, missions, social service, and spiritually empower the family for its basic function in society.
3. To secure such an acceptance of the stewardship of possessions and income as will eventually include all the members of the local churches in systematic and proportionate giving for the love of God, for the extension of His Kingdom, and for the sake of individual spiritual growth.
4. To create on the part of the members of The Methodist Church a new sense of Stewardship for community welfare, a better economic and social order, the Christianization of business and industry, the conservation of natural resources, responsibility for the underprivileged and dependent peoples of the world, and for the creation of a Christian world order.
5. To establish in each local church a permanent, ongoing, unified program of Stewardship cultivation and education as a part of its normal procedure.

Christian Stewardship Issues

In order to motivate the Major Stewardship Goals, the following issues should be raised and worked upon in view of the fact "that Christian Stewardship is an overwhelming sense of responsibility for the Christian well-being of the world."

1. Responsibility for preserving the place, value and dignity of the individual person in the increasing pressure of various forms of statism now manifesting itself throughout the world.
2. Responsibility for atomic energy for the common welfare and not for war.
3. Responsibility for the conservation of the personalities of children and youth for Christian citizenship.
4. Responsibility of both management and labor to the community for the economic welfare of the people.
5. Responsibility for good government in a democracy.
6. Responsibility for the conservation of the soil and natural resources for the future well-being of the nation.
7. Responsibility for the peace and security of the world by taking our place as a nation in the United Nations Organization, particularly as related to the welfare of the dependent peoples of the world.

Other appropriate issues will occur to you. Use them.

Some Over-All Stewardship Objectives

For the purpose of making very definite the Major Stewardship Goals, the following offer stimulus for thinking and action, and suggest concrete objectives for the Church as a whole.

1. A 50 percent increase in regular attendance upon the worship service of the Church.

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2. An increase of 500,000 active workers in the Church committed to taking some form of training for their tasks.
3. An increase of 50 percent in the number of regular contributors to the Church.
4. The enlistment of a minimum of 1,000,000 proportionate givers, at least 500,000 of whom should be tithers.
5. An increase of 25 percent in giving to all the causes of the Church, approximately \$30,000,000 annually.
6. 5,000 recruits for the ministry of The Methodist Church.
7. 5,000 recruits for life service in other phases of the work of the Church.
8. Intensified cumulative effort in the field of Evangelism.
9. Increased emphasis and effort to realize the objective for Church School Enrollment and Attendance.
10. Increased and persistent effort in the Crusade for a New World Order.

We expect our leaders to give us big plans. This they have done and the very size of the task is an inspiration. We today must be like the builders of the cathedral who decided to build such a church that future generations would regard them as mad for having undertaken it. That is for us!

Give us great dreams, O God, while Thou are giving,
And keep the end; it is enough if we
Live by the hope, nor falter in the living,
That lures us on from dust to dignity;

Give us the courage of the soul's high vision,
Though its fulfillment here we never see;
Thy heart to make and keep the brave decision,
And faith to leave the ultimate to Thee.

—Marie LeNart.

But It Starts Here

The only thing that is worse than being satisfied with little plans is being overwhelmed with big ones. My church and your church has to translate these general statements into a precise and definite program. What do these general goals mean in terms of what this particular Stewardship Committee has to do now? I cannot answer the question for you, but I can give a few suggestions. The strength of The Methodist Church is that it can plan and speak as a unit, but can work as local groups and adjust its details to the local situation. This is where the Stewardship Committee comes in. The Stewardship Committee must plan to educate every member of the local church in the philosophy, practice, and program of Stewardship. How much do the people of your church know about Stewardship? How much should they know? Why do they know so little? How can the impact of the Stewardship emphasis be brought to bear on every member? When those questions have been answered, perhaps you will want to say we will reach every member of this church with the information concerning what The Methodist Church aims to do in 1947!

Furthermore, you may ask these questions in search of an adequate program of Stewardship promotion: How many people in your church are committed to Christian Stewardship as a practice? How many could be persuaded to make the commitment if they were adequately and persuasively informed about it through the comprehensive and thorough work of the Stewardship Committee? When answers have been found to these questions, you may want to determine that your

church will play a very real part in the Christian well-being of the world. It can do that if a sufficient number of your members are committed to the stewardship of all of life and possessions. The follow-up to this determination is a consistent, thorough and wholehearted effort to commit every member to Christian Stewardship. Covenant Cards are available for recording such commitments.

One of the biographers of George Bernard Shaw wrote: "Whether in the streets of London, or on the hills of Malvern, he always walked as though he had an appointment with himself, and might be late for it." The Church often walks as if it had no appointment with anyone. One of the reasons is that it frequently has no definite goals. If we were to achieve anything like what is possible for us, let us shake our church from its lethargy and put certain, definite challenges before it in 1947. And do not be afraid to aim too high!

III GIVE THYSELF

"Take heed of thyself, and to thy teaching." I TIMOTHY 4:16.

There was a man in Lincoln's day who decided to go across Niagara Falls on a wire. He practiced long in his own back yard, walking a wire and pushing a wheelbarrow in front of him. Finally the day came for the great event. But the crowd began to get nervous and tried to dissuade the man from the hazardous feat. "Don't risk it," they shouted. "You can't possibly make it. It's suicide." But one man shouted even louder than the rest: "I believe in you, Sir!" The performer stopped and asked with wonder, "Do you really think I can do it?" "I am absolutely sure," was the reply. "Then," said the performer, "my last problem is solved. I need someone to ride in the wheelbarrow."

The task ahead is not quite the same as walking across Niagara on a wire, but it demands courage and faith. If the Pastor walks the wire, the Stewardship Committee will have to balance the wheelbarrow, for it is a cooperative venture. If there is one key person in the world program, it is you as a member of this Committee. You were chosen because your Pastor and the Crusade Committee believe that not only because of what you can do, but because of what you are, this critical moment in the life of the Church can be given into your keeping.

Within Thy Soul

It is still true that the greatest influence anyone exerts is in being something. The Church has put too much emphasis on organization as an end in itself. When some sincere person comes to see me and asks: "But what can I do?" The answer seems to me to be, "You are doing a great deal by being a Christian." Whatever else the Stewardship Committee accomplishes, it ought to find a new experience for itself, and indeed, it must do just that if its work is to succeed.

Begin with your own personal devotions. In a time like this each Methodist needs a new sense of the nearness of God. Perhaps the Committee can plan some devotional meetings together for the program will demand a sense of fellowship and unity. You have been called for a mighty task which involves a good deal more than attending a few meetings. The Methodist Church must be inspired to a sense of its mission in this dark moment.

A man one time left in his will the request that his son should spend one hour each day, by himself, in his best clothes, in a quiet room. It changed his life. The

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basis for our real work will be the quality of our own living, for as the man in a jail replied when he was asked why his parents did not teach him to read and write, "Because you can't give what you ain't got any more than you can go back to where you ain't been."

What are the implications of the Stewardship life for me? To what extent do I practice it in an exemplary fashion? Perhaps the beginning of the Crusade's Stewardship Year must begin right within me. If I have not yet surrendered my service to Christ, my abilities, and my own money, then there is no sense in going further in this business until I do. A Stewardship Committee that has resolved to practice and illustrate Stewardship within its own circle, is the most important step in making the program a success in your church. Why don't you experience the joy of this first?

Decline of the Amateur

Some years ago Dr. Sokoloff, head of certain government music projects, said the weakness he noted in American musical life was "the decline of the amateur." He meant that music had become too much a professionalized affair with fewer people playing an instrument or singing just for fun, and not because they were paid. The more I have thought about it, the more it seems to me that a serious weakness in The Methodist Church is the decline of the amateur. We too have become over professionalized and too much an institution directed by paid leaders. The trend seems to be in that direction when we hear of churches paying their singers, their Sunday School teachers, their directors of groups.

My point is not that these jobs are not worthy of pay. I know as well as you do the time and energy they consume. But if the time comes when the Church must depend on people who are paid to work in it, then the Church becomes not a people's fellowship, but a bureaucratic organization. The minister or any paid church worker is simply a person given a salary so that he can devote his entire time to the Church. But any layman has a ministry within the Church which he agreed to give when he joined. The more we depend on professional leadership, the weaker we are. Methodism when it is strong is a great lay movement.

A part of the Stewardship emphasis in the year 1947 is an attempt to restore the Church's amateur standing. Every man is called to be a Steward of Christ, laymen as well as ministers, and the Stewardship emphasis in the Crusade for Christ opens up an unusually fine opportunity for laymen. Real responsibility should be accepted by laymen and such responsibility should be faithfully fulfilled. It has to begin with you and the Committee of which you are a part.

The Committee on Christian Stewardship

The Discipline makes provision for the Committee on Christian Stewardship in these words: "A Committee on Christian Stewardship for each local church shall be elected annually by the Official Board or Board of Stewards. The Pastor and the Lay Leader shall be ex-officio members of the Committee. The Committee shall correlate and promote stewardship in the local church in harmony with the plans of the General Board. It shall report to the Official Board or the Board of Stewards and to the Quarterly Conference." (Par. 221.)

Membership and Organization

The membership of the Committee should comprise these persons at least: The Pastor and the Lay Leader as ex-officio members, able representatives of the Official Board or Board of Stewards, the Board of Education, the Board of Missions and

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Church Extension, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Men, Methodist Youth; The Departmental Superintendents of the Church School; and all other needful groups within the church. This Committee should be an active and lasting one, a permanent influence in the life and program of the church. It should have a Chairman and a Secretary, and to each of the members of the Committee should be allocated some specific responsibility in the total program of stewardship education and cultivation. The Committee should have a sufficient number of meetings, both regular and special, to care satisfactorily for its responsibilities in the stewardship program.

IV GET READY

"Get the Lord's Way Ready." MARK 1:3—*Goodspeed*.

Our local churches and leaders have a right to demand help and leadership from our General Boards and Secretaries. A Connectional Church as ours is, justifies its overhead when it helps the local church to become more efficient and effective. The General Conference of 1944 committed to the Board of Lay Activities responsibility for leadership in the promotion of Christian Stewardship in the Crusade for Christ. So, in cooperation with the Crusade for Christ and all the General Boards and Agencies of The Methodist Church, it stands ready to share prepared plans with all local churches.

The general, over-all plan has been approved by the Council of Bishops, the Executive Committee and Committee of Two Hundred of the Crusade for Christ, the General Board of Lay Activities, and the Jurisdictional Councils of Conference Lay Leaders.

In order to communicate this plan to the local churches, the Board of Lay Activities in cooperation with the Crusade for Christ, aided by the Division of the Local Church of the Board of Education, and the Woman's Division of Christian Service, set up a Stewardship Promotion Conference in Chicago, February 5-7, 1946. Skilled speakers, accredited instructors, leaders and writers were thoroughly informed in the philosophy, practice and program of Christian Stewardship. Through these persons the plan is being carried on through the Bishop's Area Crusade Councils, Summer Schools of Missions, Leadership Education Conferences, Assemblies, Institutes, District and Sub-District Meetings, and Planning Conferences in local churches to every possible member and friend of The Methodist Church.

All local churches in need of the services of an accredited instructor in Christian Stewardship may communicate with the Leadership Education Department, 810 Broadway, Nashville 2, Tennessee, just as soon as they have selected and secured qualified persons for training in this field. A fine Correspondence Course is available at once, and may be used by persons ready for such training.

The Time Is Now

A few years ago, I participated in my first big school of visitation evangelism. I can confess now that I approached it with some skepticism because of an experience which I had before. But I saw what men can do in the winning of others to Christ if they will give themselves to careful training. Since that experience, I have called my leading people together twice a year to be trained for this service. It is the greatest thing that can happen to a group of people and to a church, if a group

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of laymen will consent to consider it seriously and prepare themselves for carrying it out. This is the vital question for the success or failure of the year of Stewardship.

Necessary Preparatory Work To Be Done in 1946

As early as possible in 1946 the Committee on Christian Stewardship should see that the following things are done in preparation for the intensive efforts to be put forth in 1947.

Accredited Instructors

Make provisions for an adequate number of accredited instructors in Christian Stewardship—a minimum of one for every local church and preaching place. How can this be done? First, by selecting highly qualified persons with teaching experience and persuading them to take training for service as accredited instructors in the Course entitled: The Stewardship of Life. Second, by putting them in touch with the Leadership Education Department, 810 Broadway, Nashville 2, Tennessee, which office will advise them exactly how to proceed.

Train the Committee on Christian Stewardship

Call the Committee on Christian Stewardship together for training under the direction of such an instructor, so that it becomes thoroughly familiar with the philosophy, practice and program of Stewardship.

Train All Local Leaders, Officers and Teachers

Make further provisions whereby all the leaders of the local church are similarly informed. These leaders should comprise the members of the Official Board or Board of Stewards; leaders of the Women's Society of Christian Service, Methodist Men, and Methodist Youth; members of the Board of Missions and Church Extension and the Committee on Evangelism; the members of the Board of Education together with all officers and teachers of the Church School, Lay Preachers, Stewardship Crusaders; Conversation Guides; Directors of Drama; the leaders of all other organizations which should take some responsibility in promotion of Christian Stewardship; and prospective leaders for any and all of the above groups. Such an achievement has such high value that it should get the wholehearted and consistent support of every member of the Committee.

Further Training of Lay Preachers, Stewardship Crusaders and Conversation Guides

Special attention should also be given to the selection and special training of a sufficient number of Lay Preachers, Stewardship Crusaders (Minute Men), and Conversation Guides. All are included among those scheduled for instruction under an accredited instructor. But additional instructions should be given them because of the particular tasks they are called upon to perform. Confidential materials will be provided for these leaders by the Board of Lay Activities and the Crusade for Christ. The Committee itself should set up and administer the Conversation Groups in accordance with instructions found in the pamphlet for Conversation Guides. These instructions show in detail just what should be done and provide the materials for TEN CONVERSATION GROUP SESSIONS. It should be carefully observed that the Pastor should have a very significant part in selecting Stewardship Lay Preachers and Crusaders; and that the Pastor will work with the District Superintendent in the selection of Lay Preachers and administering their services in churches where there are no regular Pastors, or in any situations where such services are desirable. No church should be deprived of good Stewardship preaching because it has no regular Pastor.

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Examine the Plans for Dramatization

The Committee should give some very real consideration to the possibilities of dramatizing the Stewardship message in the local church. Chapter V contains special reference to this matter. And occasional dramas and plays should be used on strategic occasions.

Plan to Increase Attendance at Worship Services

In cooperation with the Pastor special plans for increasing attendance at worship services in the local church should be made and carried through so that our churches may be filled with worshippers during the Fall of 1946 and continuously thereafter.

Know the Available Helps for Implementing Your Work

The Committee should know in detail about available helps and place orders sufficiently early so that receipt of them will be guaranteed in time for active use in the intensive work. See Chapter VII for this information.

Objectives for the Local Church

The Committee on Christian Stewardship should keep in mind that an honest effort should be made

1. To carry out in detail the suggested program of cultivation and education with such adaptations as are necessary;
2. To achieve as far as possible the "Major Goals" suggested;
3. To promote an enlistment of the members of the church for definite stewardship commitments through the use of a Covenant Card;
4. To establish a reading course in Christian Stewardship;
5. To increase the number of consecrated and qualified workers in the church for Christian education, evangelism and social service;
6. To secure a definite enlistment of an adequate number of our finest youth for full-time Christian service: the ministry; missionaries; workers in Christian education, social and community service;
7. To promote giving to World Service and Conference Benevolences, the support of the ministry and local expenses until every member of the church is enlisted;
8. To present and stress tithing as an acknowledgment of the stewardship of possessions, and enroll the largest possible number of *tithing* stewards among the members of the church;
9. To institute in every church a thorough individual, personal enlistment by any good method for the total budget of the church, or for all causes, at the time most acceptable to each church;
10. To increase giving to all causes by at least 25 per cent;
11. To bring the total membership of the church into active participation in its worship services and in the program of Christian Education;
12. To magnify the Church as God's agency for world redemption.

The Planning Conference in the Local Church

The Pastor will call this Conference in the Fall of 1946; possibly in September or October according to local conditions.

The Planning Conference will consider and plan for the period of Intensive Stewardship Education and Cultivation from January 1 to June 30, 1947.

The Planning Conference should agree on all Plans formulated for the Local Church, see that they are organized, set them in motion wherever necessary, and then see that they are thoroughly administered.

The Planning Conference should keep in mind that December 31, 1946, is the absolute deadline on which all preparatory work must be completed.

The Planning Conference should give careful attention to the Stewardship Calendar found in Chapter VIII of this Manual.

Dean Inge used to say that there is such a thing as a convention of lambs passing a resolution to the effect that they will not attack the lions. Too much of our church activity is that and nothing more. But it need not be. With the atomic bomb hanging over our heads, the time has come to do more than pass resolutions. We must gird ourselves for aggressive action. Let it be said of The Methodist Church as it was said of England in 1940—"This was their finest hour."

V

PROCLAIM THE PLANS

"Go, and proclaim these words . . ." JEREMIAH 3:12.

There is an old legend that tells of the angels who rebelled against God coming down to live with men. After they had been here for some time, their neighbors asked them, "What do you miss most from heaven?" And they replied, "We miss most the sound of trumpets in the morning." We might say that in our time, the thing we miss most is the sound of the trumpets of God. There are enough other noises about us and there are enough matters clamoring for our attention, but the trumpet call of the Gospel sounds too softly. If the Stewardship program is to find a real response, it must find a trumpet voice. A very important part of the responsibility of the Committee on Christian Stewardship is the proclamation of God's call to every man in these days.

A. Intensive Stewardship Education and Cultivation should proceed in the Local Church during January, February and March of 1947.

Every member and friend of The Methodist Church should be reached with the philosophy and program of Stewardship. The following means are suggested:

Sermons by the Pastor

Every Pastor should preach a series of Stewardship Sermons during the first twelve Sunday morning church worship services in 1947. Guidance is available if he desires it. Beautifully illustrated, four color, four page, worship bulletins are ready to help him in preparing worship services of outstanding quality. Two page bulletins are available for churches unable for one good reason or another to use the four page bulletins. The program will be greatly hampered, well-nigh impossible without such leadership.

Sermons and addresses by Laymen

Simultaneously, two forms of preaching services are open to laymen: (1) Pulpits from which the Pastor is temporarily absent or where there is no permanent Pastor. These should be supplied by lay preachers under the guidance of the District Superintendent; and (2) Stewardship Crusaders (Three-Minute Speakers on Stewardship) should be ready to speak in Public Services of Worship and in all the organizations of the church. Special help is available for both these types of service.

Worship Services

Stewardship Worship Services should be held in all the organizations of the church so that every opportunity for carrying the stewardship message to the people is made available in the atmosphere of worship.

Illustrated Church Worship Bulletins and Leaflets

A fine selection of these beautiful bulletins is available on various Stewardship topics geared into the total program for the period. They constitute a comprehensive philosophy of Christian Stewardship. Leaflets are available for careful selection and distribution at all of the worship services. They should be studied, ordered in plenty of time, and used in coordination with stewardship topics.

Stewardship Courses in the Church School

Adults will find such in the Adult Student and the Wesley Quarterly. Children and youth will find stewardship emphasis in the courses provided them. These will be supplemented by interpretation.

Conversation Groups — Guides

These Conversation Groups are designed to reach every Methodist and constituent. Give them very earnest consideration. They will take some work, but they have tremendous possibilities for neighborhood contacts, fellowship, visitation, and enlistment. An instruction pamphlet for Conversation Guides gives full information as to procedure. It also provides ten outlines for Stewardship Conversations. These groups should be held for ten consecutive weeks starting the week of January 12 to 18 in 1947. They hold great promise for the work of your local church.

One of the clearest memories of my youth is a series of what we called "Cottage Prayer Meetings." For a special time such as Lent, the parish was divided into sections and on one night of each week the members of the church in that neighborhood gathered at one of the homes for a prayer service. These were always led by a layman and the program was layman-centered. Out of them there came the sense of a whole church united in the fellowship of small groups.

It is amazing how many simple plans which our fathers used have been set aside or neglected. Now and again some one comes along to discover that these old plans were psychologically and religiously sound and that with a few minor adaptations they can be used effectively today. In our Stewardship Year it is proposed that we use some of these old principles in setting up what are called "Conversation Groups."

We do too much talking and not enough communicating with one another. If we could do nothing more than salvage the well nigh lost art of conversation, our efforts would be well directed. So the proposal is that neighborhood groups of 15 to 20 Methodists and their friends meet once a week for ten weeks during the months of January, February, and March of 1947 for conversations concerning Christian Stewardship. The number of such groups would of course depend upon the size of the parish, but no member or friend should be omitted. A sense of intimacy and freedom will be felt most in small groups of the size suggested. The members will need to be enlisted and given plenty of time to save these nights for such Conversations.

The meetings are to be necessarily of a serious nature. They will be more than "visiting hours." Yet they should be pleasant to look forward to, and enjoyable as one looks back upon them. If our people can catch in these Conversations something

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of the spirit of those early Christians who opened their homes to the fellowship in the First Century, these Conversations shall be on the right way.

The leader of the Group is called a Conversation Guide and should be chosen with great care. The Pastor and Committee on Christian Stewardship should work closely together in this matter. Decide first how many Groups you need, then choose the best possible Guides, and see that they have special training. The pamphlet of Instructions for Conversation Guides will prove very helpful.

William Ernest Hocking once said: "A life lived on the plane of getting along without God, without a sense of cosmic demand, is already, whether it knows it or not, sick, sub-normal, its value infected with the dry rot of morality, intrinsically unhappy because unreal, driven subconsciously by a need which some day it is bound to recognize and define." People who meet to talk about Christian demands and promises may be led to see this for themselves and give the minister the chance he needs to bring them into complete loyalty to Jesus Christ.

Kodachrome Slide Lectures

In certain localities in the United States there are churches with superb stewardship experiences to share with other Methodist churches. These slides are not hypothetical creations; they are the actual experiences of helpful stewardship living. They will help every Methodist Church to say: "If that church can do such things, we can do them also."

Radio Messages — Transcriptions

Three possibilities open up to local churches in this field: (1) Pastors and laymen may send forth the stewardship message over regular radio programs to which they are already attached; (2) Pastors and laymen may do likewise over special and specifically sought radio program opportunities; (3) transcriptions of effective human interest stories in stewardship are available which will supplement the first two types.

These transcriptions will be available for local radio stations free of charge, and will be sent on request of their properly authorized business agent. The only consideration is that they will be used, one five-minute story, daily on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each of the thirteen weeks during the months of January, February, and March of 1947. Dr. William L. Stidger, one of radio's finest story-tellers, is the author as well as narrator of the stories. Mr. Milton Cross is the announcer.

The Committee should set to work immediately to interest managers of local radio stations in this series of 65 5-minute transcriptions available to them without charge in return for their use over their radio stations as above. Two hundred sets of 11 platters each respectively must cover the Nation. This means careful location of these sets so as to get the desired "spread." Local churches, local Methodist business men, and local church groups may want to intercede on behalf of these transcriptions and their use over local stations. Make contacts at once in line with your local opportunities. If the interest of any station becomes manifest, write the General Board of Lay Activities, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, for further information concerning procedure.

Reading Courses

Sufficient materials in Christian Stewardship are now available to provide excellent reading for such enterprises. Why not set up such experiences?

B. *Intensive Stewardship Education and Cultivation Efforts, such as the following, should also proceed from February to June, 1947*

In these efforts we may find our finest opportunity to undergird the whole church for fuller participation in the solution of great and pressing problems at home and abroad. None of us feel entirely satisfied with the efforts we have made to date to Christianize the world. Here is a strategic opportunity for the development of such a deep and abiding sense of individual responsibility for the Christian well-being of the world as will lift The Methodist Church to a higher and more adequate level of meeting the spiritual needs of God's children everywhere.

Present World Needs

We should present to all of our people certain spiritual victories of the past and the dramatic world needs of our day; and undergird The Methodist Church with a larger and more effective sense of responsibility for meeting these needs. We can help to do this in a number of ways.

Drama

In his preface to *My America*, Louis Adamic wrote: "I think, however, that the sense of drama is probably the most important (in approaching truth). I believe that the drama of things is the truth of things. To say this in other words: the truth of a thing, condition, situation, or whatever it may be, is the essence of the inter-play or inter-action of all the factors therein which is the drama thereof. I think that to the extent that one perceives the drama of a thing one perceives the truth of it."

The very nature of the Christian message makes the dramatic approach the inevitable one, for the Gospel is the most dramatic news that ever was proclaimed. We will do well to consider dramatic ways of presenting it. A superb drama is ready for the use of the churches. It is available for presentation during February-June of 1947. It is suggested that during this period the drama be presented by all of our Methodist churches throughout the United States.

In larger cities, several churches may desire to join their forces in presenting it in the city auditorium or some other large building or out-of-doors location. In places where this is possible, the whole city could be reached with the stewardship message. This will not be practical everywhere, so script is available for churches with smaller memberships. With long preparation and a strong Committee, the presentation of the drama could easily be one of the high points in the Crusade for Christ. It is hoped that every church will lay plans for such a dramatization.

Too many of our people have allowed a familiarity with the Gospel to breed a lack of interest in its serious application to life problems. It is our task to bring the urgency of the Gospel before men today for our time is limited. Very often fresh insight comes in terms of the dramatic. At least it is well worth trying in every church. (See Chapter VI, "Only the Valiant").

Factual Data

All the factual data bearing on the world needs of our Methodist program at home and abroad should be presented through the pulpit, worship services, lay addresses, meetings of various organizations working under the auspices of the local church, church worship bulletins, etc.

Illustrated Materials

Every type of visual aid available should be used to bring home to the people the

critical world situation and its bearing upon our own sense of responsibility for meeting spiritual needs.

Individual Enlistment

A thorough effort to enlist every member and friend of The Methodist Church in increased response to these world needs should be made. It is quite certain that the present response of Christendom to the spiritual needs of the world is not what it ought to be, not what it can be, and not what it must be if we are to save our civilization from suicide. Every possible individual should be challenged to help provide more adequately for the total program of world Christianization.

Continued Efforts

Continued efforts should be made in the field of evangelism and in increasing church school enrollment and attendance. These are necessary and permanent elements in the total program of the Church. They must not be neglected even when other essential elements are being emphasized.

Other Means

When a man begins to set his mind to ways and means for promoting an idea, there is hardly any limit. This Manual will only scratch the surface and every man who looks into it will wonder why this was left out and that was neglected. But the Manual is only a pump primer and will succeed if it lays on Methodist consciences the demand that they do the best possible job; that they use all of their imagination in making 1947 the greatest year in their Christian services, and make it the greatest year in the history of the church in which they now work.

Panel discussions are workable in presenting stewardship. Essay contests for young people and perhaps older people also. Speaking contests are not to be lightly considered. Local poster contests may prove very fruitful.

VI MAKE IT WORK!

"But be ye doers of the word." JAMES 1:22.

I was travelling in my state some time ago and talking to one of my brothers in the ministry. He asked me about a certain man in my church whom we shall call Jones. I told him that Jones was one of the best members in my church. He never refused when I asked him to give time to a particular job. Then my ministerial friend told me that Jones had lived in his town for several years and never even belonged to the church. That this is an unusual case rather than a common one, I am quite sure. But that there are many men who have never done much for the Church and Christianity because they have never been pursued, I am also sure.

The Christian Stewardship Covenant

The Year of Stewardship emphasis should produce a Christian Stewardship Covenant on the part of every Methodist and friend of Methodism. This Covenant should deal with vital matters which may have a genuinely decisive influence in moving the people of the world toward a New World Order in which righteousness, justice, and love are united to undergird a world brotherhood. The Covenant Card is a summary of the whole stewardship emphasis in the Crusade for Christ. Placed in the hands of any thoughtful person it holds the power to stimulate and

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help "jell" his personal convictions concerning great, vital, current issues and galvanize those convictions with a sense of responsibility to do something about them.

We Cannot Withdraw From the World

The day has passed when the Church can withdraw from the world and think that she has any chance of Christianizing it by such withdrawal. The Church must increasingly come to the position that she will have to throw herself into the maelstrom of human thought and action. "He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." Her mighty Christian doctrines must be cast into concrete demonstrations of the Christian life in action if she is to move the world forward into the "Kingdom of God on earth." The Covenant Card may help to do that. It is not "short and pointed up" in order to make it easy for folks to sign. Nor does it cover so much territory as to "appear thin." It is designed to help all of us face up to the responsibilities we hold today as Christians. The virtue of such a card must be judged neither by its shortness nor length, but by its content as that content affects our responsibilities as Christians. Consider it thoughtfully and prayerfully. Then use it!

Prepare Prospective Signers

The card can be of larger effectiveness after careful preparation of the signer. To this end some pertinent suggestions are made. Keep it out of the congregational worship service until proper preparations have been made through sermons by the Pastor, his Lay Preachers, and Stewardship Crusaders (Minute-Men). Consistent use of the Church Worship Bulletin provided by the Methodist Publishing House through its regular Bulletin Service for use during January, February and March of 1947, together with accompanying leaflets, will help. Courses in Christian Stewardship in the Church Schools and other groups will make a contribution. Reading courses should be set up. The Conversation Groups provide a fine preparation timed satisfactorily to get the cards properly signed.

Conversation Groups

The persons who are to guide these Conversation Groups are called "Conversation Guides." Pamphlets of Instructions have been prepared for them. These pamphlets contain full instructions on how to proceed. They encompass Ten Outlines for Conversations in Christian Stewardship. These are timed to begin the week of January 12 to 18, 1947. At least five weeks of the Conversations should have been held before any use is made of the Covenant Card whatsoever, either in these Groups or elsewhere. The Pastor and Committee should be guided by these "Instructions for Conversation Guides." Specific timing of the use of Covenant Cards is set forth in these instructions. The Calendar reveals exactly when to begin Enlistment and consequently the use of the Covenant Card. The week of February 16-22 (Ash Wednesday—February 19) is specifically designated.

The Period of Enlistment—The Covenant Card

The Covenant Card is designed to record decisions for which the prospective signer has already been prepared. Furthermore, it will stimulate to further growth in the Christian life in bringing the prospective signer face to face with current issues with a view to helping him think his way through and acting. A period of preparation is specifically set to give the entire Church the opportunity to study the doctrine of Christian Stewardship thoroughly before any record of Covenants is taken. This is no high pressure game where the less the prospective signer knows about the instrument he signs is to the advantage of the Church. Let fullest possible information be shared, signers persuaded, with reasonable time taken to persuade them. In January

and February of 1947 the local church should be able to make the doctrine of Christian Stewardship sufficiently known to its people. Then during Lent the local church should set itself to the task of enlistment—getting Covenant Cards signed. Furthermore, content rather than length of card should be emphasized during enlistment.

Disposition of Signed Covenant Cards

They should repose temporarily with the Committee on Christian Stewardship while an accurate accounting is made of the total number of decisions in each respectively of the opportunities offered. These totals should then be reported to your District Superintendent. He will report totals for his District to the office of The Crusade for Christ, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, not later than *April 15, 1947*. The signed Covenant Cards, after proper accounting by the Committee on Christian Stewardship, should be turned over to the Official Board or Board of Stewards of the local church by the Pastor and Lay Leader together with an itemized report of the decisions made. These Covenant Cards may prove of real value for further education and service of the church in Christian Stewardship.

Visitation

Along with other plans, the Committee on Stewardship should set up a plan of visitation so that no member of the church is left out. In spite of all that can be done through groups, there may be a considerable number of people who have not been reached by them. Let the Committee analyze the whole program adequately and see to it that if any family or person has not been reached, he will be visited by some competent and designated member of the Committee.

The visitors will be able to distribute leaflets and pamphlets. We can learn from some of the more reactionary sects that the passing of tracts is still useful, especially if the material should be contemporary and realistic.

Full-Time Enlistments

The Church for some time has had an unemployment complex. There was a time when our pulpits were full and young men coming into the work of the ministry were regarded as added burdens for which the Conference assumed responsibility. Under these circumstances, not very much emphasis was put on winning new men to the ministry. Quite the contrary. We sought to discourage the decision in many instances because we had a feeling that there were already too many. For nearly two decades, that has been the prevailing psychology of the Church. Today we are beginning to reap the benefits of what was at best, a short-sighted attitude. There is now a real shortage of full time workers in The Methodist Church and in all the churches. How many ministers have tried to get young men to help them and have been told there are none to be had! How many churches need deaconesses and secretaries, but cannot find them! On the Mission Field, the situation is the same. Stations are left empty and pulpits are silent, while we are forced to link churches together. The time has come when we must recruit new men and women for service of the Church.

There is no more important part of our program in these days when we are thinking of expanding, than the enlistment of people into God's ministry. It is hoped that one of the real results of this Stewardship emphasis will be an increase in the number of recruits to the ministry. If men are faced with the demand of their whole lives for the Gospel, there are some young men and women who will feel that demand in terms of full time work. It is not that we have asked and been refused. It is only that we have not asked. Now is the time to send out the call and to lay upon the hearts of our best young people the opportunity and joy of full time service to Christ.

There are none of us who are guiltless. Upon the hearts of all the leaders of Methodism from the Bishops to the last official in the local church, we must accept the responsibility of bringing young lives into the service. It is the task of all good Methodists, but it is primarily the task of the minister. He has the best opportunity and he is in the position to get the best results. As a matter of fact, the young people in our churches will be drawn to the ministry or repelled by it, according to the way they see us do our jobs. This is the first requirement for us in these days. We must so go about our ministry that young men seeing us will say, "That is for me."

We must be on the watch for the best. It takes more than a pious spirit and a willingness to do properly the work of Christ. Let us seek out our best. Why should we hesitate to lay upon the conscience of any choice young man the call of the ministry? Why should we fail to let any fine girl choose her future without being made aware of the fields of service within the Church? Part of our personal responsibility is to find full time workers for the Kingdom.

Said Bradford, the first governor of the Plymouth Plantation: "Yea, though they should lose their lives in this action, yet they might have comforts in the same . . . all great and honorable actions are accompanied with great difficulties, and must be both enterprised and overcome with answerable courages." As Willison remarks in his *Saints and Strangers* after quoting the above: "And the Pilgrim's courage, that of Saints and Strangers alike, was always 'answerable'—let that be their epitaph." There is always an answerable courage to the demands of the full time Christian work. We will find the answer if we will give forth the call. Let every Methodist Church produce at least one son and one daughter for full-time service to Christ.

You will not at first see the far-reaching effects of the Stewardship program, but there are certain things you can do to bring immediate and concrete results. One of the most satisfying results that you can bring about during the periods of promotion is to establish relations with your local newspaper and the Methodist Press.

By establishing the right contacts and following the suggestions given below, you will be able to help spread the Stewardship message to a maximum number of people, Methodist and non-Methodist alike:

A. Your Local Newspapers

1. Call on the editor of your local newspaper and tell him briefly of your Church's plans for the promotion of the Stewardship program. You will find that the editor will be interested and cooperative if he sees any news value in what you tell him.

The amount of space that he will be able to devote to the Stewardship activities of your church will depend on the news value he places on them and of course will be affected by the volume of advertising. During your visit, find out in what form the editor would like to have the news, and when he would like to have it.

2. Once you have told him some of the interesting activities your church has planned, appoint yourself or some member of your committee to act as a Press Secretary to cover and report the activities for the newspaper.

This will involve gathering complete and accurate information pertinent to the particular activity you want to publicize, then to write up the story in as few words as possible. By complete information we do not mean to burden the editor with a maze of irrelevant details, but we do mean to present the whole story in the first paragraph, giving the date, the exact time and place, the exact address, and *first* names. By *first* names we do not mean the person's first initial, but his given name, for editors prefer to have the full name. However, if the person mentioned in the story does not want his first name used, give instead his first *two* initials.

3. The Press Secretary's job will be simply to write up and send in the necessary information to the proper party on the newspaper staff, abiding by the requisites set down by the editor. This means getting the news into the hands of the proper person in time to meet the deadline for the issue in which you want the news to appear.

B. The Methodist Press

In addition to exploiting the possibilities offered by the local press, do not overlook the possibility of promoting Stewardship through the Methodist Press. The editors of all Methodist publications are interested in the news of your Church. Therefore, send your news to him, too. You may do this through the General Board of Lay Activities, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, indicating the publication in which you want the news to appear, or by sending it directly to the publication itself.

Establishing Effective Radio Relations

Your local radio station will play an important part in the stewardship program. Its importance is equal to that of your local daily or weekly newspaper, for there are many people, especially among shut-ins and the aged, whose main enjoyment is listening to radio programs of a religious nature.

It will help us to spread the stewardship message more advantageously if we establish effective relations with radio stations in connection with Dr. William L. Stidger's series of human interest stories, "Stories in Christian Stewardship," recorded by NBC with Dr. Stidger himself as narrator and Milton Cross as announcer.

The Committee on Christian Stewardship of your church should set to work immediately to interest managers of local radio stations in this series, which consists of 65 transcriptions available to them without charge in return for their use over the radio. There are 11 platters in each set with 3 five-minute stories on each side. These transcriptions are intended to be broadcast daily Monday through Friday during the first 13 weeks of 1947, or as many times a week during that period as the stations find practical. The transcriptions will be sent on request to the station's program director.

An explanatory letter and folder are being mailed to selected radio station managers throughout the United States in order to interest them in broadcasting the series or part of it during this 13-week period. Each station will be offered a sample transcription if they are interested in hearing a typical story for possible broadcasting. If you are personally acquainted with the manager or program director of your local radio station, establish contact with him as soon as possible. If the interest of any radio station becomes manifest, write the General Board of Lay Activities, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, for further information concerning procedure.

In talking to the station manager or program director, tell him that we would prefer to have the stories broadcast as nearly as possible at the same hour each day, one five-minute story each week-day. You might also mention that the stories are of interdenominational significance and will appeal to persons of all religious persuasions as well as to non-religionists.

You might also mention that NBC places high value on Dr. Stidger's work over the radio and gives as reference to support this evaluation the program entitled, "Getting the Most out of Life," which originates from Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. Stidger's Hooper rating shows that this is a well patronized program to which an estimated 500,000 persons have listened.

Kindly approaches may have very much to do with the final acceptance of these pressings for serial use, possibly with the sponsorship of local Methodist leaders, churches or groups within our churches. Consequently, we are relying heavily on your cooperation.

The transcription series, or any part of it, can be ordered through the General Board of Lay Activities. Your local radio station should have received by this time our letter and folder describing the series and offering a sample pressing. If it has not yet received this material, please contact the General Board of Lay Activities and we in turn will contact the station. However, it is best that a personal visit from you would be to our advantage, we will send the material to you at your request.

"Only the Valiant"—a Pageant

"Only the Valiant" is the title of an inspired and inspiring drama-pageant written by Dr. James Allen Kestle, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for presentation throughout the nation by all Methodist Churches from February 1 to June 30, 1947.

Special music for the pageant is being prepared by Dr. James Houghton and Mr. Richard W. Ellsasser, both of Boston University School of Theology. The latter has been called by certain newspapers "The Greatest Organist of this Generation."

The pageant is written in two forms: (1) A script which is designed to be used in churches of smaller memberships, and which requires 40 minutes for presentation; and (2) A script which requires two hours for presentation, and which is designed to meet two different situations, namely, (a) presentation in large individual churches, and (b) presentation in large city centers where a citywide cooperation of all Methodist churches is desired. In this latter case, the objective would be to make a genuine impression upon the city by pooling leadership and all other resources in a really great presentation.

Wherever great citywide presentations are desired, it may become possible for directors to receive special training and guidance both in an understanding of what is intended to be done through the pageant, and how best to present it. If sufficient desire is expressed throughout the nation for such training at the expense of the cities involved, the General Board of Lay Activities would be glad to set up training centers and furnish the services of Dr. James Allen Kestle himself. Communicate with the Board if such services are desired.

It is hoped that every Methodist Church will participate in putting on this drama creditably and effectively in their respective neighborhoods, either individually or in cooperation with other churches. It is hoped that 100 American cities will witness its presentation in a large citywide demonstration.

The drama will set forth in a fine way great spiritual victories in Christian Stewardship in the past, and reveal critical, current spiritual needs worldwide. It will make a genuine attempt to create an overwhelming sense of responsibility for the Christian well-being of the world.

Herein lies a superb opportunity for our churches to make deep impressions upon their people and friends in the interests of Christ and His program. Envision some 40,000 Methodist preaching-places joining in such a mighty movement to dramatize our Christianity! More aggressive action in the Christianization of the world may thus be wrought, whether at home or abroad. Set some of your Committee members to work on this project at once. Select a director and a strong Committee to support Him. Begin to prepare NOW!

Finances

Part of the cultivation and training material will be furnished free jointly by the Crusade for Christ and the General Board of Lay Activities. There are some materials which individuals and groups will want to order and pay for themselves. It is probably a good idea to have groups which plan to use material for their programs, arrange to finance it themselves, if they are able.

There are materials which will cost something and there are plans which will demand some financial undergirding. It will be wise to have this in mind in preparing local budgets. Make a general estimate of the amount you will need. It ought to be a sufficient amount to give you everything you will need. This is not one of the items to cut to the minimum. Most any Official Board or Board of Stewards will vote the money needed if it has been told something of the general program contemplated. To have a worthy place in the budget will help to dignify the program and give it the central place it deserves.

VII TOOLS FOR THE TASK

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things." I TIMOTHY 4:6.

Herein is set forth a list of tools and materials with which you will want to become familiar. They are quite essential to successful stewardship promotion in the local church during the Crusade for Christ. They may also suggest methods and procedures particularly applicable to your own situation.

Books on Christian Stewardship

THE MESSAGE OF STEWARDSHIP. *Ralph S. Cushman.*

Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. Fine resource book. \$1.00 per copy.

TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN. *G. Ernest Thomas.*

Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. Popular presentation of Stewardship. 60 cents per copy.

STEWARDSHIP IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH. *Dr. Holmes Rolston.*

Knox Press. Leadership Education Book. \$1.00 per copy.

WHEN CHRIST CONTROLS. *John Versteeg.*

Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. Stewardship Messages. \$1.50 per copy.

ACHIEVING RESULTS IN CHURCH FINANCE. *Boyd M. McKeown.*

Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. 60 cents per copy.

STEWARDSHIP AND THE WORLD MISSION. *J. E. Simpson.*

Fleming H. Revell Company. \$1.00 per copy.

THE CHRISTIAN MOTIVE AND METHOD IN STEWARDSHIP. *H. B. Trimble.*

Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. 60 cents per copy.

THE STEWARDSHIP LIFE. *Julius Earl Crawford.*

Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. 50 cents per copy.

THE WORLD'S NEED OF CHRIST. *Chas. A. Ellwood.*

Abingdon-Cokesbury Press. Cloth-bound copy \$2.00.

TOWARD A WORLD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. *Kenneth Scott Latourette.*

Association Press. 50 cents per copy.

Study Courses in Christian Stewardship

You may secure from the Leadership Education Department, 810 Broadway, Nashville 2, Tennessee, any of the following Courses:

(113b) THE STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE. Note: A Correspondence is also available.

(132a) THE USE OF POSSESSIONS.

(614b) FINANCING THE CHURCH.

International Uniform Lessons in Christian Stewardship will appear in the Adult Student and the Wesley Quarterly during January, February and March of 1947.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IN THE CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

Then in all the Church School literature a wealth of stewardship materials will be forthcoming.

Illustrated Church Worship Bulletins

Christian Stewardship is to be promoted intensively during the first twelve weeks of 1947 in the local church. For each of these twelve Sundays, a beautifully illustrated four-page Bulletin is provided. These Bulletins are in four colors, done in offset, deep-tone process. Page one contains a masterful painting by Mr. Walter Oschman, well known Chicago artist, illustrating a Scripture story which teaches Christian Stewardship. Page four carries the interpretation of the story in script. Pages two and three are left unprinted, thus making them available for either printed or mimeographed worship services, announcements, and news.

The following outline reveals the comprehensive scope of these Bulletins as they relate to the Scriptures and life:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Picture Title</i>	<i>Script Title</i>
Jan. 5	God the Creator	Man Worker with God
Jan. 12	Moses the Patriot	Giving His Life for His People
Jan. 19	The Boy Samuel	Every Man's Work a Calling from God
Jan. 26	The Martyred Stephen	Steward of the Good News
Feb. 2	The Rich Young Ruler	Total Stewardship
Feb. 9	The Good Samaritan	Being a Neighbor
Feb. 16	Mary Learns of Jesus	Stewardship of the Soul
Feb. 23	Barnabas Consecrated Layman	Steward of Possessions
Mar. 2	The Rich Man and Lazarus	The Tragedy of Wilful Blindness
Mar. 9	The Poor Widow	The Giving that Costs
Mar. 16	Paul before Agrippa	A Master Steward
Mar. 23	Jesus The Christ	The Perfect Steward

These four-page Bulletins take the place of the regular four-page Bulletins published and distributed by the Methodist Publishing House and will be sent automatically to all who have regular orders with the Publishing House, in quantities corresponding to their orders, and at the regular price. Additional quantities will cost \$1.00 per hundred for the four-page Bulletins.

Every Methodist Church will need these Bulletins to follow through in the Crusade for Christ. Orders should therefore be placed at once.

Two-page Bulletins are available to churches which publish their own church bulletins. These two-page Bulletins may be slipped into the accustomed Bulletin and thus carry the stewardship message. The two-page Bulletins will cost 75 cents per hundred.

In ordering please state how many Bulletins you desire to use weekly for the twelve weeks. The unit of twelve weeks cannot be broken. For instance, if a church orders 100 four-page Bulletins weekly for the twelve weeks, it will mean 1200 Bulletins will be sent, at \$1.00 per hundred or \$12.00 for the four-page, and at 75 cents per hundred or \$9.00 for the two-page Bulletins.

Order through your branch of the Methodist Publishing House, Church Bulletin Service.

Manuals and Instructions for Leaders

THE PASTOR'S MANUAL. *Gerald Kennedy.*

The Manual is designed to give the Pastor guidance as he leads the program in the local church. It will be sent to him directly from the Crusade Office.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONVERSATION GUIDES. *G. Ernest Thomas.*

This pamphlet is designed to give full directions concerning the Conversation Groups, how to set them up, how to conduct them, and furnishes Ten Outlines for Conversations. It will be sent to the Pastor in sample form so that he can place orders for the exact number he needs for his work, and from the Crusade Office.

MANUAL FOR THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR PASTORS. *A compendium by leading Pastors.*

These will be sent directly to the Pastor from the Crusade Office.

RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR LAY PREACHERS. *By selected Laymen.*

THREE MINUTE ADDRESSES FOR STEWARDSHIP CRUSADERS (MINUTE MEN).

These addresses are designed to help all Stewardship Crusaders as they take their part in presenting stewardship on every possible opportunity.

STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES FOR LAYMEN'S SUNDAY, 1947. *Dr. Harry N. Holmes.*

Christian Stewardship Drama-Pageant for Use Throughout the United States

A drama-pageant, "Only the Valiant," written by Dr. James Allen Kestle, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, designed to set forth to our people some great spiritual victories of days gone by together with historic stewardship, and then the current, worldwide spiritual needs for which our Church must assume specific responsibility.

It is designed to be used by all our churches, without the payment of any royalties.

Individual Dramas in Christian Stewardship

"Isaiah," by Evangeline Zehmer. In process by the same author: "Moses," "Jeremiah," "Hosea" and "Amos."

Kodachrome Slide Lecture and Worship Service in Christian Stewardship

"World Catastrophe or World Christianity?" Crusade General.

General Lecture on Negro Achievements in Christian Stewardship.

CHURCH PROJECTS:

1. "An Adventure in Stewardship." Haddonfield, New Jersey.
2. "From Malachi to Mishawaka." Mishawaka, Indiana.
3. "A Church With a Vision." Highland Park Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas.
4. "The Chickasha Larger Parish." Chickasha, Oklahoma.
5. "What One Doctor Did." Frederic, Wisconsin.

WORSHIP:

Four Worship Services in Christian Stewardship. Rev. Laurence Nye, Portland, Oregon.

Radio Transcriptions

Sixty-five 5-minute "Stories in Christian Stewardship," written and narrated by Dr. William L. Stidger, one of radio's finest story-tellers, with Mr. Milton Cross as announcer. It is an exceedingly valuable set of pressings, which are to be made available for use during January, February and March of 1947.

These sixty-five programs are on eleven 16-inch pressings (double faced) produced by NBC Recording Division.

They will be offered, free of charge, to radio stations throughout the country on these conditions:

- (1) That all 65 programs be used during January, February and March of 1947.
- (2) That they be used serially and daily on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of each week for thirteen weeks.
- (3) That they be used as nearly as practical at the same hour each day.

We request that our local Methodist leaders contact their local radio stations and inquire whether or not the station is interested in the series.

If you find your station interested, write the General Board of Lay Activities,

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IN THE CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

Radio Service, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, at once for further guidance in the matter, stating clearly all the facts with which you have become familiar. We want as many stations as possible, strategically spread over the nation, to use these fine stories in Christian Stewardship.

Further suggestions for establishing relations with your local radio station are given in Chapter VI under the heading, "Establishing Effective Radio Relations."

Your Local Newspaper

Your local daily or weekly newspaper is a highly useful tool for putting the Stewardship program over with telling effect. How to establish effective relations with the local lay press is told in detail in Chapter VI under the heading, "Establishing Effective Press Relations."

Methodist Information

The Methodist Church has a Commission on Public Information, popularly known as "Methodist Information." It is Methodism's distributor of news both to the secular and the Methodist Press. This office has built up a fine relationship with these two channels of news and will welcome all the help you can give in getting Stewardship news to the reading public.

Significant news items worthy of publication in either the secular or Methodist Press may be submitted to this agency through the Department of Public Relations at the headquarters of the General Board of Lay Activities, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. This department will cast into usable format all Stewardship news received from lay leaders and clergymen. Therefore, we invite you to send on to us any news of your stewardship program you feel might help us in advancing the promotion of Christian Stewardship. We will see that it is properly written up and sent to the proper publication through the facilities of Methodist Information.

Tearsheets

Tearsheets, or news clippings, will prove of inestimable value to Methodist Information and our Board, as well as to your own local program. It is suggested that you make a scrapbook of such clippings and send an extra set of the tearsheets or clippings to the Board of Lay Activities, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Ill.

Stewardship Publications of The Board of Lay Activities

The following publications of the General Board of Lay Activities are available as indicated below:

THE METHODIST LAYMAN

The "Trade Journal" of the Board of Lay Activities, a 32 page paper published *monthly* by the General Board of Lay Activities, at the following subscription rates: \$1.00 a year in advance; 50 cents a year in clubs of 5 or more mailed to one address. Published primarily for Lay Leaders and members of "Methodist Men," the Official Board or the Board of Stewards, and the Stewardship Committee.

LAY ACTIVITIES: 1945-1948

Quadrennial Program: Recommendations of the General Board. For free distribution on request.

THE BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES—THE METHODIST CHURCH

Booklet: Lay Activities in 1944 *Discipline*.

For free distribution on request.

THE OFFICIAL BOARD—BOARD OF STEWARDS

Booklet: Composition, Organization, Duties—1944 *Discipline*.

For free distribution on request.

AN ADVENTURE IN STEWARDSHIP. By G. Ernest Thomas

A 72-page book. An account of a constructive program of stewardship promotion and cultivation in the local church.

Price: single copy, 25 cents; 5 copies, \$1.00; 25 copies, \$5.00.

MANUAL FOR THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

- CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP. By *George L. Morelock*
A 42-page pamphlet, attractively bound.
Price: single copy, 10 cents; 12 copies, 80 cents; 100 copies, \$5.00.
- A JARRING QUESTION. By *Clovis G. Chappell*
A 16-page pamphlet on tithing, attractively bound.
Price: single copy, 5 cents; 12 copies, 50 cents; 100 copies, \$3.00.
- THE MINIMUM STANDARD OF GIVING. By *Earl G. Hamlett*
A 16-page pamphlet on tithing, attractively bound.
Price: single copy, 5 cents; 12 copies, 50 cents; 100 copies, \$3.00.
- SOMETHING BETTER THAN A FORTUNE. By *Sherwood Eddy*
The stewardship life of A. A. Hyde; 12 pages, attractively bound.
Price: single copy, 5 cents; 12 copies, 50 cents; 100 copies, \$3.00.
- THE FELLOWSHIP OF TITHING. By *P. M. Snider*
A 16-page leaflet on tithing.
Price: single copy, 2 cents; 100 copies, \$1.50.
- THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD IN HIS CHURCH. By *George L. Morelock*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- THE PRINCIPLE OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP. By *W. K. Greene*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 50 cents per 100.
- WEALTH INEXHAUSTIBLE. By *E. Dow Bancroft*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- A VOICE FROM THE VALLEY. By *Lynn Harold Hough*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- AUNT NAN'S COFFEE GRINDER. By *E. Dow Bancroft*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- CHURCH PEWS: SLIGHTLY USED. By *Roy L. Smith*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 50 cents per hundred.
- THE LAYMAN IN THE CHURCH SERVICE. By *Raymond M. Veb*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 50 cents per hundred; 1,000 copies, \$4.50.
- A PLEDGE IS MORE THAN A GIFT. By *William H. Leach*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- SUNDAY A BULWARK OF CHRISTIANITY. By *Franklin L. Edwards*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- THE FINE ART OF GIVING. By *Charles R. Brown*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- THE GRACE OF STEWARDSHIP. By *J. H. Jowett*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- LAYMEN FOR THESE TIMES. By *George L. Morelock*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 75 cents per 100.
- CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP— BASIC PRINCIPLE
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 50 cents per 100.
- STEWARDSHIP IN THE GIVING OF SELF AND MONEY
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 50 cents per 100.
- A CUP OF COLD WATER. By *Ernest Fremont Titile*
A Stewardship leaflet, attractively illustrated.
Price: 2 cents each; \$1.50 per 100.
- "PROVE ME NOW . . ." By *Harold Camp*
A Stewardship leaflet.
Price: 1 cent each; 50 cents per 100.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IN THE CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IN THE WORLD OF TODAY. By *Ernest Fremont Tittle*

A Stewardship leaflet, attractively illustrated.

Price: 5 cents each; \$1.15 per 100.

LOSERS FINDERS. By *Richard Terrill Baker*

A Stewardship pageant.

Price: 5 cents each; 50 cents per dozen; \$3.50 per hundred.

A STEWARDSHIP COVENANT CARD

Price: 50 cents per hundred; 1,000 copies, \$3.50.

A TITHING COVENANT CARD

Price: 50 cents per hundred; 1,000 copies, \$3.50.

WHY GO TO CHURCH? By *George L. Morelock*

A 55-page pamphlet, attractively bound.

Price: single copy, 10 cents; 12 copies, 80 cents; 100 copies, \$5.00.

THE MIRACLE OF WORSHIP. By *William Blake*

A 26-page pamphlet, attractively bound.

Price: single copy, 5 cents; 12 copies, 50 cents; 100 copies, \$3.00.

A FELLOWSHIP CHURCH. By *George L. Morelock*

A 24-page pamphlet, attractively bound.

Price: 5 cents each; 50 cents per dozen; \$4.00 per 100.

YE ARE MY WITNESSES. By *George L. Morelock*

A leaflet on Lay Evangelism.

Price: 2 cents each; \$1.50 per 100.

TOTAL TASK OF THE CHURCH. By *J. C. Pettygrove*

An attractively illustrated leaflet on Evangelism.

Price: 2 cents each; \$1.50 per 100.

IMMORTAL THINGS IN MORTAL HANDS. By *Edgar T. Welch*

A Plea for Personal Lay Evangelism.

Price: single copy, 2 cents; 100 copies, \$1.50.

Note: Order the above publications from the Board of Lay Activities. Check or Money Order should be sent with all orders.

VIII THE CALENDAR

"For the day will declare it." I CORINTHIANS 3:13.

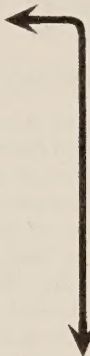
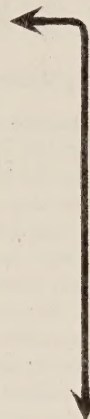
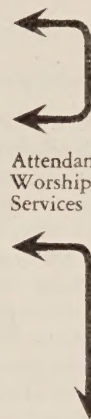
The Unknown author of the Epistle to Diognetus referred to the Christians of his day as "They who hold the world together." One historian said that the Methodist movement under the leadership of John Wesley and his lay preachers saved England from a revolution. There have been times when God performed a miracle through consecrated men and, even at the eleventh hour, saved the world from what seemed inevitable doom.

None of us who are Christians can doubt this, nor can we fail to believe that such salvation is always possible. The only thing that can prevent it is lack of a suitable instrument for God to use. Here we are—eight million Methodists with 21,000 ministers, facing what is certainly one of the great crises in history—perhaps it is the greatest one the race has yet faced. But with all of our potential strength, we are able to be used of God to do what needs to be done.

Now, however, we must bring our organization to bear on particular spots. If our fire-power is scattered, we shall hardly cause the enemy more than a monetary irritation. That is why the following Calendar is so important. This is the way we can synchronize the efforts of a great mass of people and their leaders, and it is the way that your Church and mine can carry a fair share of the load. Schedules may be a nuisance, but there is no other way to concentrate strength when it is needed, and where it is needed.

METHODISM'S STEWARDSHIP CALENDAR IN THE
CRUSADE FOR CHRIST — 1946-47

PERIOD OF PREPARATION

1946		Area Crusade Councils	District and Sub-District Meetings	Leadership Education Classes	Summer Schools, Assemblies, Institutes, etc.
Feb.	5-7...	STEWARDSHIP PROMOTION CONFERENCE— HIGHLAND PARK			
Apr.	22...				
May	5-11...				
May	12...				
May	26...				
June	...				
July	...				
Aug.	...				
Sept.	...				
Oct.	6...				
Oct.	27...				
Nov.	10...				
Nov.	24...				
Dec.	8...				
Dec.	22...				
Dec.	25...				
Dec.	29...				
Dec.	31...				

Deadline for Preparatory Work

PERIOD OF INTENSIVE PROMOTION

Period of Intensive Promotion in the Local Church

1947			
Jan.	1-4...	New Year's First Days	1. Reading Courses Start Jan. 1-4
Jan.	5-11...	Week of Prayer	2. Sermons by Pastors Start Jan. 5-11
Jan.	12-18...		3. Sermons and Addresses by Laymen Start Jan. 5-11
Jan.	19-25...		4. Use of Church Worship Bulletins and Leaflets Start Jan. 5-11
Jan.	26 to		5. Stewardship Courses in Church Schools and Other Groups Start Jan. 5-11
Feb.	1...		6. Kodachrome Lectures Start Jan. 5-11
Feb.	2-8...		7. Radio Messages and Transcriptions Start Jan. 5-11
Feb.	9...	Race Relations	(1) Methodist Pastors and Laymen on regular radio programs
Feb.	9-15...		(2) Methodist Pastors and Laymen whenever and wherever they can get on radio
Feb.	16-22...		(3) Transcriptions of Human Interest Stories
Feb.	19...	Ash Wednesday—Lent Begins	8. Essay, Poster, and Speaking Contests Start Jan. 5-11
Feb.	23...	Laymen's Day	9. Conversation Groups Start Jan. 12-18
Feb.	23 to		10. Enlistment — Use Covenant Cards Intensively During Lent. Start Feb. 19 End Mar. 23
Mar.	1...		
Mar.	2-8...		
Mar.	9-15...		
Mar.	16-22...		
Mar.	23...	PASSION SUNDAY	
Mar.	30...	PALM SUNDAY	
Apr.	6...	EASTER SUNDAY	

Presentation of Worldwide Needs at Home and Abroad

February- Through Christian Stewardship Drama-Pageant, for presentation throughout the
June United States between February 1, 1947, and June 30, 1947; supplemented and supported by sermons, addresses, factual data, illustrated materials, and individual enlistment.

IX

MIND THE LIGHT

"Even so let your light shine before men. . ." MATTHEW 5:16.

In New York harbor there is a sunken shoal called Robbins Reef, which lies between Manhattan Island and Staten Island. For many years the keeper of the light on this shoal was an elderly widow named Mrs. Jacob Walker. A newspaper reporter interviewed her one day and made a feature out of her story. She had married her husband when he was keeper of the Sandy Hook Light, and she was happy there because the light was on the land. But later he was transferred to Robbins Reef where there was no land. Mrs. Walker said that when they first went there she refused to unpack because she did not believe she could ever stand to live on that lonely place. But somehow she did unpack and when four years later her husband died from pneumonia, she stayed on and kept the light. During the years that followed she always looked toward Staten Island every morning, for that was where her husband was buried, and then she would remember the words he spoke more often than any others: "Mind the light!" And, somehow, remembering those words she found it possible to do her lonely job without being too unhappy.

It must always be remembered that Jesus never promised his followers that it would always be sunshine, but he did promise them that they could be light in a dark world. It was to be the kind of light which if men saw, they would look up and thank God. It would give them new courage and in the midst of despair, it would revive hope. If there was ever a time when Christians were called upon to remember the command of their Master: "Let your light shine," that time is now.

We are Christians; and we are Methodists. We believe in God and we believe that this is his world. We believe that Jesus Christ will not be denied forever, and that the kingdoms of this world must become the kingdom of our Lord. Now is the time for us to gain a new awareness of our place in this situation. We have a message to tell to the nations, and we have a way of life which leads to peace. Hear His word to our Church in this decisive moment: "Mind the light!"

There are not many of us who can say that our lights have been kept trimmed and burning as brightly as they could burn. We are all guilty of leaving undone the things we ought to have done. But now we are called to a great Crusade for Christ. Now we are called to face more realistically than ever before, the claims of the Gospel upon us and through us, on our Church. It is time to find out what God can do with the people called Methodists if they are willing to consecrate themselves fully to His service. You may remember that Brer Rabbit said he thought he could climb a tree if he had to. Well, we have to do something just as difficult.

To every Methodist preacher, God says, "Mind the light!" To every Methodist layman, God says, "Mind the light!" In this dark, despairing time the year of Stewardship must flame with hope to show the way we must go. Whether we shall do this, I have no way of knowing, but that we could do it, I have not the slightest doubt.



GENERAL BOARD OF LAY ACTIVITIES
THE METHODIST CHURCH
GEORGE L. MORELOCK, *Executive Secretary*
740 RUSH STREET, CHICAGO 11, ILLINOIS